

The 1990 peace dividend
a counterfactual hypothesis

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Climate politics and the *Peace Dividend*



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Problem

Political time delays for eco-social reforms
accelerate global warming

Method

Counterfactual hypothesis to find causes and
consequences of delaying prudent
investments

Investment proposition

| GLOBAL INVESTMENT Commoner 1990 (p.238f) | Billion \$ (10 ⁹) pr. year | over ... years |
|---|---|----------------|
| Rail transport | 37 | 10 |
| Organic agriculture | 45 | 5 to 10 |
| Soft chemistry | 75 | 10 |
| Use of energy | 122 | 10 |
| Decarbonisation | 93 | 20 |
| Third World debt relief (100%) | 100 | 10 |
| MAX. pr. year | 472 | |
| = around half of defense budgets (1988) | | |

Making Peace with the Planet (Barry Commoner,
Spring 1990) Published at Earth Day, Commoner's
vision should guide global eco-social restructuring
to be financed by de - militarisation

Consequences

1. By realizing Commoner's
20-year plan, the World could
have been saved for:

- global warming
- bail-out of banks
- drugs as cash-crops
- lost jobs + markets
- mass migration
- conflict + war

(Susan George 1992: *The debt boomerang. How Third World debt harms us all*, TNI)

2. As this is not the case, we
still live on top of a chaotic
world-system.

Who dares believe that
diplomats from the states of
this interstate system will be
able to implement the stern
logic of the Stern report of
2006:

NOT to allow further time
delays, but within the next 20
years to invest into a plan akin
to Commoner's proposal?

Reaction: Postponing the Peace Dividend...

*"American power - and the will to use it -
will remain the backbone of any future
collective security arrangement..."*

*That doesn't mean the post-Cold War
'Peace Dividend' has been cancelled; it just
has been postponed."*



U.S. Pres. Bush, Sen., Fall 1990

... for Geopolitics

*"The vogueish notion that the world's
geopolitical center had migrated from
Washington to somewhere around **Berlin**
was among the first
casualties of the Iraqi invasion."*

(Both quotations: FORTUNE, Sept.10,1990 OIL
– how to achieve energy security)

Conclusion

Instead of blaming *individual*
consumers or hoping that
markets will clear the mess,
state crash programs for
thousands of wind farms and
solar devices should empower
people to do the *work* we
need.

Further reading: STOP
GLOBAL WARMING -
CHANGE THE WORLD!
(Jonathan Neale 2008)